

REMARKS

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Piccolo* (U.S. Patent No. 6,439,536). Applicant has cancelled claims 9-12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot. As all remaining claims, *i.e.*, claims 1-8, stand allowed, the application is in clear condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: December 9, 2005
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